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Massachusetts Weekly Initial Unemployment Claimant Data (04-30-20)

April 19 to April 25

4/30/2020

Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

MEDIA CONTACT

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From April 19 to April 25, Massachusetts had 70,552 individuals file an initial claim for standard Unemployment Insurance (UI), the fourth consecutive week of fewer initial claims filed over the previous week. Since March 15, a total of 722,009 initial claims were filed. As the number of initial claims continues to decrease, the number of claimants filing for their weekly benefit each week continues to grow. For the week of April 19 to April 25, there were a total of 527,538 claimants, an increase of 13.8% over the previous week, who filed for their weekly unemployment benefits. Food and Accommodation with 93,168, Retail Trade at 69,333 and Health and Social Assistance with 66,202 showed the largest number of claimants who filed for their weekly unemployment benefits.

The Cares Act created a new temporary federal program called [Pandemic Unemployment Assistance \(PUA\)](/guides/pandemic-unemployment-assistance-benefits-guide) (/guides/pandemic-unemployment-assistance-benefits-guide), which provides unemployment benefits to individuals who are self-employed, gig workers and those not covered by regular unemployment compensation. In the week of April 19 to April 25, there were a total of 171,598 PUA claims.

From March 15 to April 25, combining UI and PUA, Massachusetts had a total of 893,607 claims filed for unemployment insurance.

Currently, the [Department of Unemployment Assistance \(DUA\)](/orgs/departments/unemployment-assistance) (/orgs/departments/unemployment-assistance) is paying standard Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits to around 450,000 claimants and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance to around 150,000 claimants. Since March 15th, nearly 700,000 Massachusetts total claims have been paid amounting to more than \$2.3 Billion in disbursements to beneficiaries of both programs.

Over the last month, the customer service staff at DUA has grown from around 50 employees to over 1200. The remote customer service operation is now making over 25,000 individual contacts per day and DUA continues to host daily unemployment town halls, held in both English and Spanish, which have been attended by over 200,000 constituents. Massachusetts was one of the first states to successfully launch

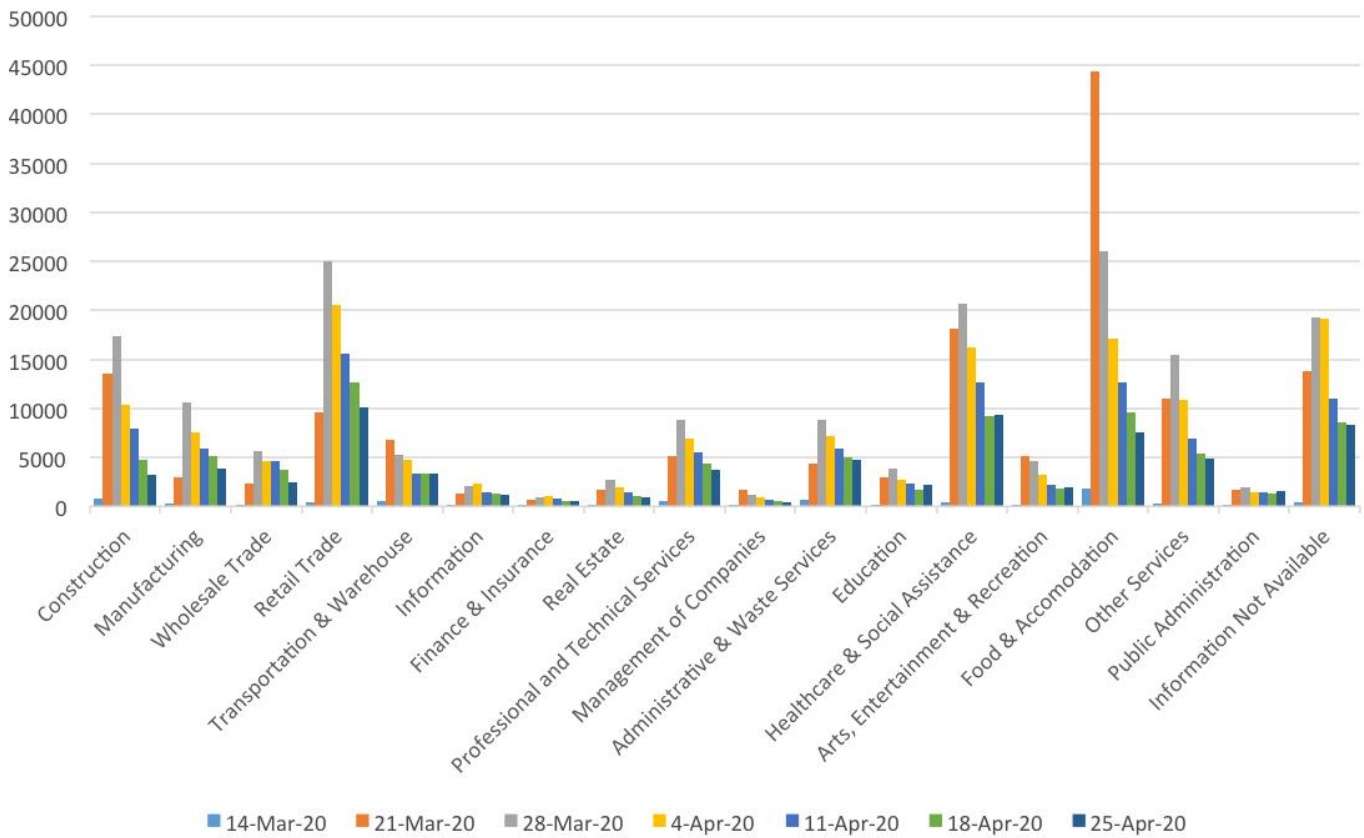
the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program. Due to DUA's previous efforts to migrate their systems to the cloud, the first unemployment agency in the country to do so, the unemployment online platforms for both regular UI and PUA has maintained functionality throughout the surge in demand.

*Below data and graphs relate to standard Unemployment Insurance (UI) only

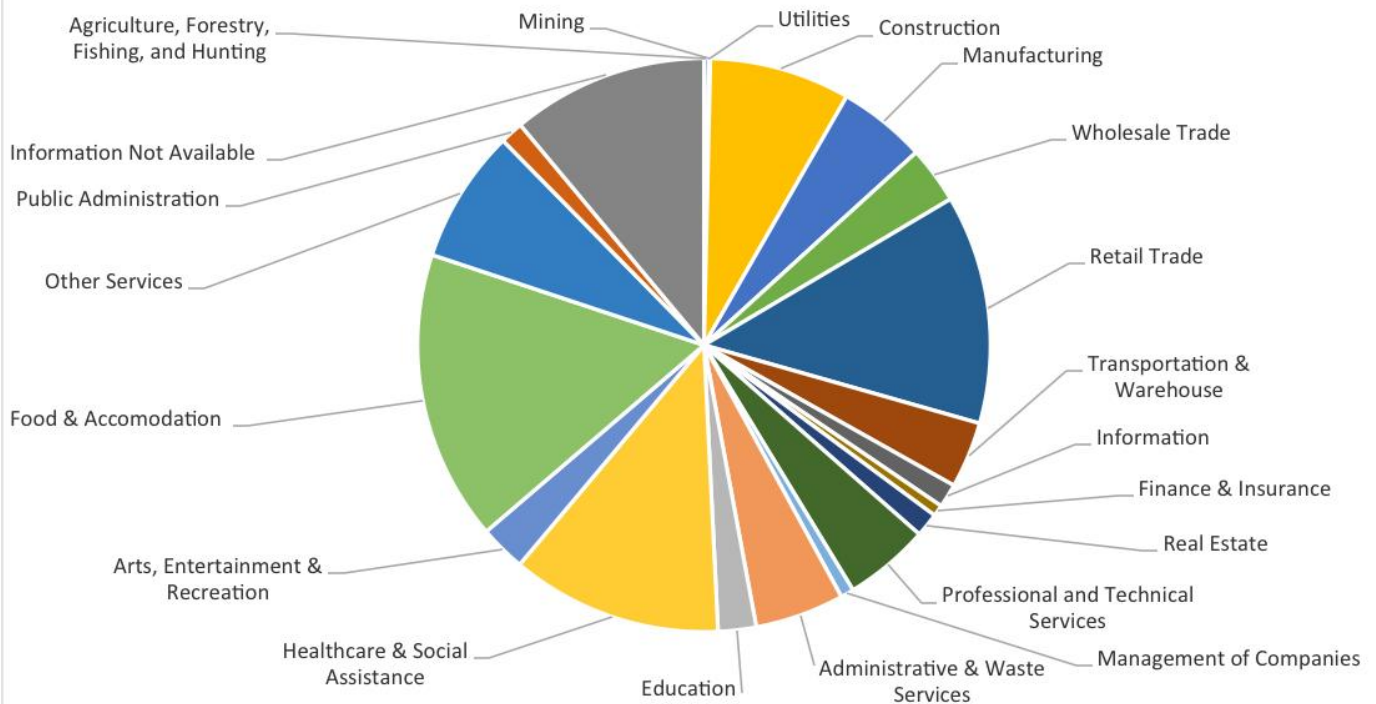
Industry	Initial Claims Filed			
	Week Ending 4/18	Week Ending 4/25	Change	% Change
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	281	208	-73	-26.0%
Mining	13	12	-1	-7.7%
Utilities	82	50	-32	-39.0%
Construction	4,754	3,155	-1,599	-33.6%
Manufacturing	5,065	3,798	-1,267	-25.0%
Wholesale Trade	3,709	2,452	-1,257	-33.9%
Retail Trade	12,669	10,085	-2,584	-20.4%
Transportation & Warehouse	3,292	3,289	-3	-0.1%
Information	1,336	1,200	-136	-10.2%

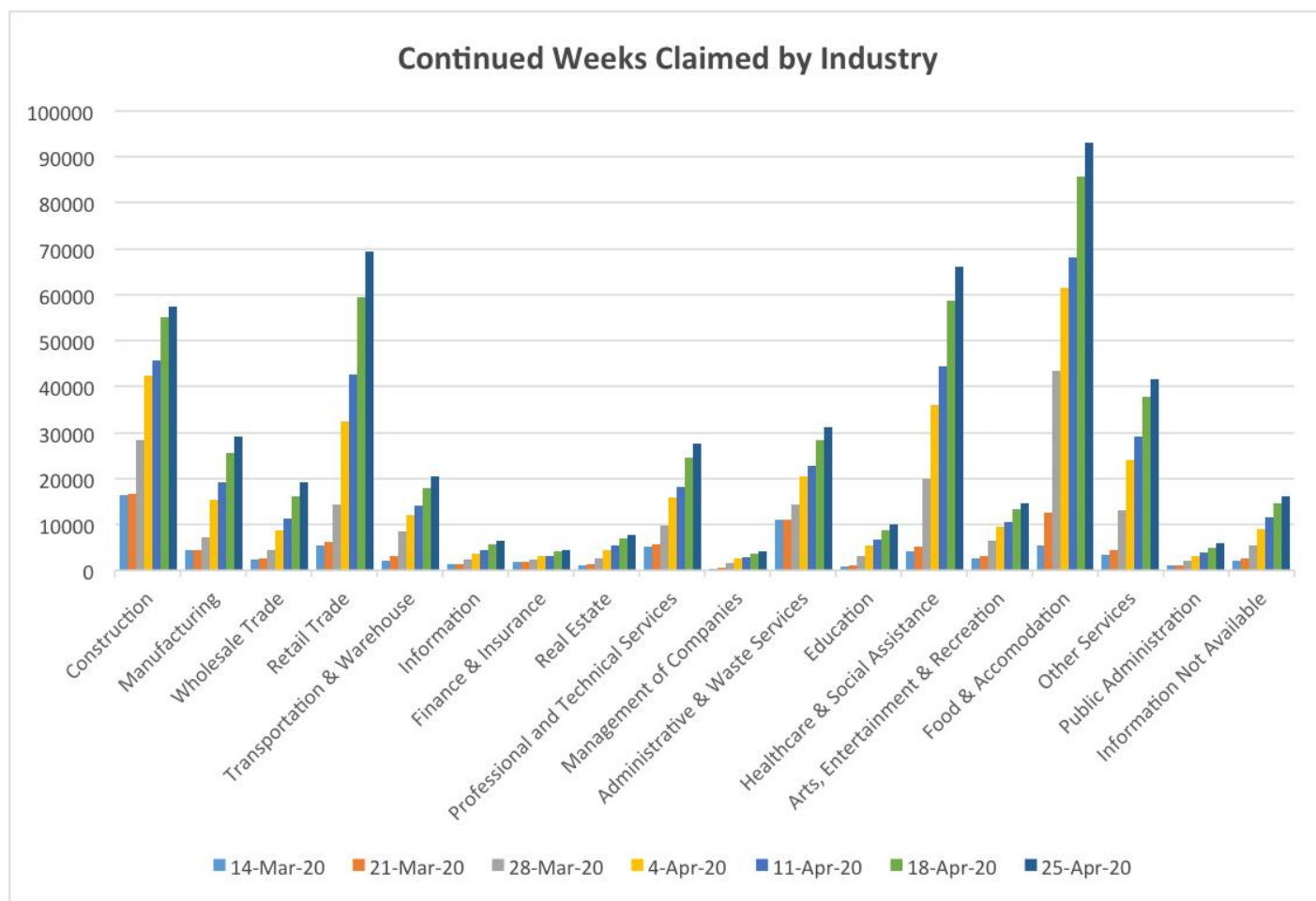
Finance & Insurance	536	592	56	10.4%
Real Estate	1,040	977	-63	-6.1%
Professional and Technical Services	4,359	3,775	-584	-13.4%
Management of Companies	486	421	-65	-13.4%
Administrative & Waste Services	4,956	4,788	-168	-3.4%
Education	1,653	2,140	487	29.5%
Health & Social Assistance	9,249	9,271	22	0.2%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	1,777	1,889	112	6.3%
Food & Accommodation	9,564	7,515	-2,049	-21.4%
Other Services	5,383	4,833	-550	-10.2%
Public Administration	1,244	1,604	360	28.9%
Information Not Available	8,705	8,498	-207	-2.4%

Weekly Initial Claims by Industry



Initial Claims by Industry, March 15th - April 25th (virus-surge)





The tables below show the breakdown of regular unemployment insurance initial claims from March 15th – April 18th along gender, ethnicity, and race.

	Claimants	Percentage
Female	344952	53.00%
Male	305840	47.00%

	Claimants	Percentage
Hispanic or Latino	91779	14.90%
Not Hispanic or Latino	524162	85.10%

	Claimants	Pecentage
American Indian or Alaska Native	3297	0.59%
Asian	44018	7.82%
Black or African American	54584	9.69%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1839	0.33%
White	459511	81.58%

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Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

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EOLWD manages the Commonwealth's workforce development and labor departments to ensure that workers, employers, and the unemployed have the tools and training needed to succeed in the Massachusetts economy.

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